

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST VAL  
JOHN BORM

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a sense of sadness and regret to honor the short life of Specialist Val John Borm, of Sidney, Nebraska. Val, an infantryman in B Company, 2nd Battalion with the 35th Infantry, was killed late last week when a roadside bomb exploded near his Humvee.

A 2005 graduate of Sidney High School, Val has been described as an enthusiastic soldier who enjoyed his service for our country. My heart goes out to his parents, Larry and Lolita, and the rest of the Sidney community as they come to terms with this loss.

As we head into the July 4th holiday season, let us remember Val and his comrades who have paid such a high price defending freedom. We owe them our very best.

HONORING MRS. SANDRA L. MERIN

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Mrs. Sandra L. Merin, president of the Board of Directors of the District of Columbia Children's Advocacy Center, also known as Safe Shores. This week Mrs. Merin is being honored by the National Children's Alliance as its 2007 Volunteer of the Year for her extraordinary service and leadership on behalf of abused children in the Nation's Capital.

Established pursuant to the Children's Advocacy Center model created over two decades ago by our distinguished colleague Representative ROBERT "BUD" CRAMER of Alabama, Safe Shores is a nonprofit organization that each year helps over 800 children whose lives have been marred by physical abuse, sexual abuse or other violence. Safe Shores' mission is to ensure the safety, health and well-being of abused children in the District of Columbia by uniting the strengths of public, private and community partners.

Mrs. Merin has been a volunteer with Safe Shores for 6 years, during which time she has shown tremendous energy, persistence, and determination in being a voice for children who face abuse, neglect, and painful realities that no individual should ever know.

Mrs. Merin leads the volunteer board of directors, helping to guide the governance of the organization and the board's development and expansion; she has helped forge a relationship between a respected local university and Safe Shores; she has served on the organization's 10th Anniversary Event Committee.

In the true spirit of community service and philanthropy, Mrs. Merin does all her fine work for Safe Shores humbly and without seeking praise or reward. A devoted wife and mother, Sandra Merin exemplifies the spirit that made this country great and continues to sustain us.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Sandra Merin for her dedicated and invaluable support of Safe Shores

and its crucial efforts to reduce trauma and promote healing for the youngest and most vulnerable of Washington, DC's residents.

RETIREMENT OF MIAMI EAST  
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER FRED  
WORTH

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Fred Worth, a History and Government teacher at Miami East High School in Miami County, Ohio, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the youth of our Nation.

For the last 30 years, Fred has contributed his time and his talents to the betterment of so many young adults and for this I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks. Whether it is coaching baseball, volunteering at St. Patrick's Church or teaching in the classroom, his students and players exhibit the best of our younger generations. I know many of Fred's former students and players have blossomed into wonderful adults and he's played a big part in shaping their character.

I'm proud to call Fred my friend and for that I express my most sincere gratitude. His leadership will be missed, but the footprint he leaves will inspire many to dream big, reach high and achieve great things.

I consider it an honor to represent Fred in Congress and I wish him and his wife Janet a long, happy and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT  
JOHN HUNSBERGER

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, SGT John Hunsberger.

Sergeant Hunsberger recently returned from Haditha, Iraq, where he served a 7-month deployment. He was assigned to Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps.

The city of Haditha saw unprecedented improvements when Sergeant Hunsberger's Company E served. Upon arrival, Haditha was considered one of the most dangerous regions in Iraq. By the end of Sergeant Hunsberger's deployment, the police force was rapidly growing, attacks on Iraqi Police and Marine patrols were steadily decreasing, and relations with the Iraqi people were improving.

Sergeant Hunsberger earned the purple heart while in service in Haditha.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Sergeant Hunsberger, whose selfless actions benefit all Americans. Our Nation owes Sergeant Hunsberger and his fellow soldiers a great debt of gratitude for their service.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. Unfortunately, my colleague from Texas has failed to closely examine the benefits the Appalachian Regional Commission has provided numerous economically distressed counties in the region since its establishment over 40 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, the ARC has enhanced the region's economic progress by improving living conditions, enhancing the employability of the workforce, and strengthening the region's basic infrastructure.

Simply put, the numbers speak for themselves. Since its creation, the ARC has reduced the number of severely distressed counties in the region by more than 65 percent, cut the poverty rate from 31 percent to 15 percent, and created 1.6 million jobs.

Mr. Chairman, my Upstate New York district has been plagued with struggling local economies for quite some time. Population exodus, significant job losses in the manufacturing sector and slow economic development have all contributed to the downturn in economic prosperity in the region.

These communities are in dire need of exposure to new innovative technologies—such as alternative energy projects—and attracting private investment to spur economic activity and improve their quality of life. The ARC helps our communities do just that. The ARC provides the framework and the guidance for these communities to begin to move towards sustainable economic growth.

Mr. Chairman, six counties in my Upstate New York district have experienced success as members of the ARC. The Village of Sherburne, NY in Chenango County is a great example of how small ARC grants are extremely helpful in leveraging additional funds from State, local, and private sources for economic development initiatives that create jobs. A \$200,000 grant from the ARC for the enhancement of aging water infrastructure in Sherburne—a problem that is plaguing many States in the Northeast—was able to leverage close to \$4 million in State and local community investment.

Mr. Chairman, for each one dollar of ARC funding invested, it leverages \$3.14 in other public funding and \$11.55 in private investment. Now that sounds like a responsible and wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

It would be unwise and irresponsible to deny the people in 13 States in the region the funds to help them achieve socioeconomic parity with the Nation. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose the amendment to zero-out funding for the ARC. Mr. Chairman, I also strongly urge my colleagues to support my freshman colleague from Ohio's